

PHASE IV DEBRIS REMOVAL SURVEY
Preliminary Environmental Unit Review

Waterway: 8528 Little Lagoon

NOAA reviewer: P. Linnick Beatty

Date: April 3, 2008

Checklist of Environmental Factors – Assess the potential for impacts to the following resources/areas and coordinate as necessary:

☒ Habitat/environmental sensitivity *area*
Restrict survey to Little Lagoon. Do not cause physical harm to marsh.

☒ Threatened/endangered species

Gulf Sturgeon maybe in the area. Removal actions that impact water quality or the fauna require emergency consultation with USFWS. Removal activities that directly or indirectly impact brown pelicans require emergency consultation with USFWS.

☐ Cultural/historical resources

☐ Oyster habitat

☒ State/federal/tribal lands

Coordinate with Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge for removal of items, Daniel_Breaux@fws.gov, (985) 882 – 2000.

☐ Scenic waterway

Summary and Conclusions of Environmental Review:

Habitat/environmental sensitivity: Adjacent to the lagoon is brackish marsh. ESI identifies rare plant (#436) in this area but should not affect overwater activities.

Threatened/endangered species: The ESI identifies threatened fish (#503) and is likely the Gulf sturgeon. The Gulf sturgeon spawn in coast rivers and streams from late winter to early spring. Adults and sub-adults may be found in those rivers and streams until November, and in estuarine or marine waters during the remainder of the year. The Big Branch NWR website indicates the endangered and threatened species in the refuge are red-cockaded woodpecker, bald eagle and

brown pelican. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are not expected to be affected by overwater operations. Brown pelicans nest spring and summer in mangrove trees, shrubby vegetation or occasionally, ground nest. Brown pelicans feed along the Louisiana Coast in shallow waters, using sand spits and offshore sand bars as rest and roost areas. Although removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened species, bald eagles are protected under the MBTA and the BGEPA. In the southern eastern U.S., typical reproductive activities occur between September and May. The ESI identifies rare amphibian (#510) but is not expected to be affected by overwater operations.

Cultural/historical resources: no arc.

Oyster habitat: None listed in ESI.

State/federal/tribal lands: Little Lagoon is located in Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. The NWR prohibits air thrust boats, motorized pirogues, mud boats and go devels.

Permit needed for air boats and Mr. Breaux (985) 882 – 2000 can facilitate the process.
